

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.
ARCHITECTURE.

THE majority of the churches exhibited are in the early English style: (1109) "District Church, Bracknell, Berks," by T. Scandrett; (1113) "Church in a Nobleman's Park," by D. J. Childs (with very erroneously placed flying buttresses); (1115) "Church at Wickham Bishops, Essex," by E. Christian (with open wood south porch); (1142) "Church of St. John the Baptist, Hartwell," by C. Vickers (consisting of nave and chancel, with double bell-cot at west end); (1284) "Meanwood Church, near Leeds," by W. Railton (though part shows the ball-flower in the groining), are amongst the number.—(1110) "A Suggestion for an Improvement in Westminster, adapted to the Nineteenth Century," by W. Papworth, is a view down King-street, rebuilt, commencing with a structure at the corner of Downing-street, similar to the Privy Council Office, and a cleverly drawn fountain at what is now the junction with Parliament-street. According to Sir John Evelyn's diary, "King Charles II. had a design to buy all King-street, and build it nobly, it being the street leading to Westminster. This might have been done for the expense of the Queen's funeral, which was 50,000*l*." This was in 1695: the cost would come out something differently now.—(1111) "Wesleyan Normal College, Horseferry-road, Westminster," by J. Wilson, does not set forth the design to much advantage.—(1118) "School of Industry for Female Orphans, about to be erected at St. John's-wood," by G. Legg, is poor in effect, but may look better when carried out, as some of the churches here will look worse. The pinnacles are too small.—This cannot be said of (1124) "Nobleman's House and Farm Buildings," now erecting in New South Wales, by T. C. Tarring, wherein the finials of gables are monstrous & too large.—(1126) "Design for a new Wesleyan Chapel, at York," by G. F. Jones, is Nov. in style, with large wheel window in each side front.—(1136) "A Marble Fireplace," by C. J. Richardson, was exhibited at the School of Design. It is an elaborate and able design, arranged to admit of the introduction of Parian statuettes.—(1139) "Interior of Baths, Wolverhampton, now erecting," by G. T. Robinson, is Byzantine in style and not ineffective. The same architect exhibits "The Interior of the Exchange at Wolverhampton," (1174).—(1145) "The Dining Hall, Farming Wood Hall, Northamptonshire," by T. Bury, is a nice specimen of Mr. Bury's skill in drawing, and the same and something more may be said of (1259) "Church of St. John, Radpole," by same architect.

(1164) is an outline geometrical drawing, by E. M. Barry, of "Cliefden, the seat of the Duke of Sutherland, now rebuilding from designs of C. Barry, R.A." The central portion, the only new part, has attached Ionic columns, carrying only balls, with the entablature breaking round them, and two ranges of windows in their height, as an arrangement open to objection, in spite of precedent. The wings, terraces, &c., grip well.—(1184) "The Seat of E. Lamb, Esq., now erecting," by C. Barry, junior, is heavily coloured, but will make a good building. The chimneys, brought up at the angles of the central tower, and at regular intervals around the house, constitute an important feature.—(1192) "A Design for a new National Gallery for Painting and Sculpture," by Jas. Ferguson, was briefly mentioned last week. The picture galleries and schools are on the first floor of the part next Trafalgar-square, with libraries under. The sculpture galleries are on the ground floor, lighted from the roof on one side only. The picture galleries are in three lateral divisions: the centre goes up high, and is lighted by a continuous range of windows seen over the roof of the lower (side) portion: they would seem to have comparatively small extent of available wall. The building has the merit of exhibiting no wasteful expenditure of columns, and if wanting in dignity is not so in elegance. The central lantern is Corinthian, with groups of sculpture on the entablature, and is terminated by a Minerva of large size.—(1197) "St. Helen's (R.C.) Church, Westhothorne-grove, North," by T. Meyer, shows an Early Decorated building, the interior of

which is apparently to have stone groined-vaulting, and fittings of more than ordinary costliness. Judging from (1282) the exterior of the same church, the lower part of spire, next the top of tower, is of metal work, and though novel in England does not promise to be satisfactory.—(1209) "The Arcade and Portico to the Central Railway Station at Newcastle-upon-Tyne," by J. Dobson, is one of the most costly screens ever erected. It is Doric in style: the central portion has a range of coupled columns carrying figures, and the whole is certainly imposing in more senses than one.—(1216) is a good bold range of "Buildings about to be erected in the City," by E. Hanson.—In (1217) "Design for remodelling the Façade, &c., of National Gallery," by H. B. Garling, the principal features are the removal of the turrets at end, the introduction of a range of columns along the face of the building, and the substitution of a square attic in the centre, in lieu of present dome. The effect of the drawing would have been better if the lines of the main front had been drawn parallel.

We shall continue our notice of the general exhibition next week.

ARTISTS' GENERAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE 35th anniversary festival of this institution was held on Saturday last, Sir Robert Peel in the chair, supported by Viscount Hardinge, Colonel Rawdon, and the following Royal Academicians,—Sir W. C. Ross, D. Roberts, C. Stanfield, T. Uwins, T. Webster, C. R. Cockerell, P. Hardwick, P. McDowell, and C. Barry; Associates,—R. Redgrave, T. Creswick, W. E. Frost, A. Elmore, A. Egg, and W. P. Frith; and the following patrons,—the Hon. — Hardinge, Sir E. Cress, Dr. Rice, and Mr. Portescue, M.P. The Chairman, who was received with marked distinction, made an eloquent appeal, more especially to absent friends, and through the hoped-for help of the daily press,—that great institution or "estate," he remarked, which ever stood forward as the generous advocate of every cause connected with benevolence and charity. The period of this appeal he felt was a peculiarly appropriate one. Within the last few days there had been open all those exhibitions which presented the collective works of genius that had been accumulated during the past year. He believed there were few who knew, or ever thought, of the painful processes which had been necessary for the production of these works; what a degree of severe mental toil had been endured, what discouragement there sometimes was, on account of harsh and unfeeling criticism, and the caprices of the public taste. He believed that in the course of the present year there would be seen on the walls of the several exhibitions as many as 4,000 works of art [Sir Robert reads THE BUILDER], the result of the toil and labour, and genius of the past year. Now, these were the productions of those who had been comparatively successful in the race of competition,—who had at least had sufficient health and strength to enable them to contend in that severe race; but there were behind these, in the distant background, artists out of sight, and almost out of mind, whose prospects had been clouded by accidents and disease, some of whom had left widows and orphans, with no other worldly possession but an unblemished and honourable name, and a delicacy of feeling which induced them, in many cases, to withhold a knowledge of their affliction. It was for the purpose of mitigating that suffering in such a way that delicacy of feeling should not be wounded that this institution had been established,—an institution marked, on the one hand by the greatest liberality, and on the other by the severest economy, for he found that the whole of the salaries during the past year, including commission to collector, &c., had been but 56*l*. 16*s*. 10*d*., and the room for the meetings of the council and subscribers only 6*l*. 12*s*. Since 1814 not less than 1,200 cases had been relieved in sums amounting to 12,700*l*., and last year alone fifty-seven applicants had been relieved at a cost of 650*l*.—The receipts during dinner amounted to about 718*l*., including 100*l*. from her Majesty, 50*l*. from Sir R. Peel, 30*l*. from the British Institution, and 30*l*. from Lady Chantrey.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

ONE hundred and fifty extra hands have lately been taken on the Britannia Bridge works, to expedite the floating of the third great tube. On 10th June, its final transit to its permanent site is to take place. Since the completion of the tubular passage, circular windows, 4 inches in diameter, fitted with glass, and standing about 20 feet apart, have been placed along the sides.—The Rymney Iron Company have contracted to deliver in London about 12,000 tons of iron rails, at 4*l*. 19*s*. 8*d*. a ton. Take 10*s*. for carriage out, says *Herapath*, and there remains under 4*l*. 10*s*., a price considered in the trade to be beneath the cost at which the rails can be made.—The Bradford branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire line has been inspected and is about to be opened. The length is only three miles, but the works are heavy and costly, particularly the Bowling tunnel, and the bridges and retaining walls in Wakefield-road and Broomfields. The tunnel is 1,646 yards in length. The arch throughout is formed almost entirely of stone. The entrance presents a semi-circular arch in the Moorish style, and the opposite end a plain Norman arch. This tunnel is nearly straight. It has three open shafts for ventilation, and is almost entirely free from water. The shaft of greatest depth is 65 yards. The principal bridges are—one, an iron girder, weighing in iron alone 300 tons, of 50 feet span and 60 yards long, and crossing Wakefield-road; the work of Messrs. Butler and Co., of Stanning-leigh; another, of stone, with elliptical arch, 28 feet span, passes under Edward-street, Bedford-street, and Croft-street, in Broomfields; being 130 yards long; a third, of some prominence, not far from the Bowling tunnel, is a timber lattice bridge, 30 feet in height, and with two spans of 80 feet each. There are several additional bridges—iron girder, bow string, and lattice bridges—crossing several of the roads and serving to connect others at various parts of the line. The rails are bridge-form, and screwed on timber laid down longitudinally. The chief contractor of the branch was Mr. William M'Cormick. The Bowling tunnel and cutting were completed by Mr. Angus Nicholson; heavy masonry at the entrance to the town by Mr. Frith; and station and warehousing by Mr. Robert Neil (Manchester).—The lattice viaduct on the Kilkenny and Waterford line was on Tuesday week delivered up by the contractor to the Company's engineer, and its stability tested on the withdrawal of the centring, much anxiety being manifested as to the result. On the centres being eased off, the deflection was 2½ inches. On Wednesday morning the structure had subsided ½ inch additional. In the trial of strength 72 tons, independent of persons on the engine and waggons, were laid on at rest, and then passed and re-passed at a speed of 15, 20, and 30 miles an hour. The momentary deflection, says our authority, never exceeded 6½ inches, and this, on the weight being removed, immediately sprang back 2½ inches. The final settlement remains but 3½ inches.

BOOKS.

An Elementary Course of Geology, Mineralogy, and Physical Geography. By D. T. ANSTED, M.A. Van Voort, Paternoster-row.

SHOULD any of our readers be so far mistaken as to imagine that, as architects or engineers, they have little to do, professionally speaking, with the study of a subject such as this, the following quotation from Professor Ansted's volume will suffice to remove the impression:—

"With respect to the decomposition of stones employed for building purposes, it is greatly influenced, as well by the chemical and mechanical composition of the stone itself and by the nature of the aggregation of its component parts, as by the circumstances of exposure. The oolitic limestones will thus suffer unequal decomposition, unless the little egg-shaped particles, and the cement with which they are united, be equally coherent, and of the same chemical composition. The shelly limestones, being chiefly formed of fragments of shells, which are usually crystalline and cemented by